

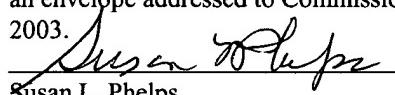


IN THE U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 7, 2003.


Susan L. Phelps

10 - 7 - 2003

Dated

Applicant: R. J. Curran et al : GROUP ART UNIT: 2186 / Conf. No. 9989

Serial No.: 10/602,159 : Examiner:

Filed: June 24, 2003 : October 7, 2003

Title: An Efficient Method for Copying : Lawrence D. Cutter

and Creating Block-level Incremental : IBM Corporation

Backups of Large Files and Sparse Files : 2455 South Road, M/S P386
: Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND
STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE OF INFORMATION DISCLOSED BY APPLICANTS**

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449 are documents that are being submitted for consideration under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. Copies of the documents are enclosed. No fee is required.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE OF INFORMATION DISCLOSED BY APPLICANTS

Document Designation:

Relevance:

SJO920020107US1

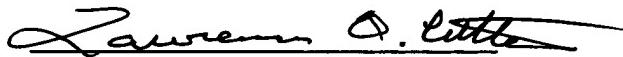
The commonly assigned patent application cited herein and titled "A Host-Independent Incremental Backup Method, Apparatus and System," is directed for use with a block device, such as a disk array or storage subsystem. The present application is directed at a higher level of abstraction, namely the file system itself. The present patent application refers to other disk array systems which provide an incremental backup using a "dirty bit" for every changed block. The patent application cited herein uses a "flashcopy" technique rather than a dirty bit to detect changed data, but is fundamentally the same as other incremental copy techniques for block devices.

JP920020112US1

Background art.

Date: Oct. 7, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.